

JOHN ONE, ONE

Intro: The person whose understanding of Jesus Christ is below what He is in the Word will have:

- 1) An inadequate understanding of God.
- 2) An inadequate understanding of the effect of sin upon man.
- 3) An inadequate understanding of the doctrine of salvation.

The Apostle John's purpose in the Gospel is to prove the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. His thesis is stated in John 1:1! If you believe this, you will not have any trouble with any of the things which John has written. If you do not believe it, but will continue to read, you will find all of the proof that is necessary to establish the truth of what John has written here.

My purpose tonight is simply to understand what John has written.

Two things impress us immediately:

- 1) The importance of doctrine, or teaching. It is the foundation of all truth.
- 2) The centrality of Jesus Christ in the teaching of Scripture.

There is no doubt but that John is writing about the Lord Jesus Christ. A reading of the chapter will prove this. But, having seen this, we need to note in detail what he is writing.

We have three statements, and a name. We will take the statements first, and deal with the title last.

I. STATEMENT #1: "In the beginning was the Word."

What "beginning" does John have in mind? Vv. 2, 3 tell us.  
It is the beginning of creation.

Jesus Christ was never created. He had no beginning. At the time of creation when everything was made, He already was in existence.

Cf. John 17:5,

"And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."

Cf. John 8:58,

"Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am."

Note how 1 John begins. See also Col. 1:17, "And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."

The meaning of this first statement is that Jesus Christ is without beginning, and, therefore, eternal. *He is pre-existent!*

## II. STATEMENT #2: "And the Word was with God."

The term we need to understand in this statement is the preposition, "with."

There are at least three important truths for us in this one word:

### A. It means that He and God are two different Persons.

He spoke about His Father when He was here on earth. He prayed to His Father, and spoke of having been with Him even before creation. He said that He had been sent by the Father, and that He was going back to the Father.

Therefore, Jesus Christ and the Father are not the same Person.

### B. It means that He and the Father are equal. ~~in their position.~~

### C. It means that there was a close, intimate fellowship between Jesus Christ and God. They never differed. There was never any broken fellowship. *This in eternity past is glorious to contemplate.*

Thus, if we understand the first two statements, we are prepared for the third.

## III. STATEMENT #3: "And the Word was God."

This is a clear statement for the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.

But we need to keep in mind what has preceded. This does not mean that He and the Father are the same Person. Some people are confused about this when they think of being in heaven. When we get to heaven, we are going to see three Persons--all of Whom are equal in their Deity!

If this is not true, then language means nothing. Cf. John 14:16, 17 where all three Persons of the Godhead are referred to.

But, you say, He said, "I and my Father are one" (John 10:30). And, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9). What do these mean?

They mean that there was complete equality between the Father

and the Son so that, if you saw one, it was just like seeing them both. They are identical in their Deity, but are separate Persons.

IV. THE NAME: "The Word"--three times in this one verse.

The Apostle John is the only one who uses this expression. See it again in v. 14. Then read Rev. 19:13. Speaking of the One who comes on a white horse, he says,

"And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood; and his name is called The Word of God."

This identifies Him with "the Word" of the Gospel of John.

Why does John, speaking by the Holy Spirit, give our Lord this name--"the Word"?

Many have been the explanations, but let us be just as simple as we can.

What is a word? It is a means of communication, a way of making ourselves known.

This is why Jesus Christ is called the Word. He is the revelation of God to man, not only by what He said, but by what He is!

All through the Scriptures God has been revealing Himself. With the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ that revelation was finally completed. It could be no greater if God the Father had come Himself. Cf. Heb. 1:1-3.

See also John 17:4,

"I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."

And in the same chapter, v. 6,

"I have manifested thy name unto the men whom thou gavest me out of the world; thine they were, and thou gavest them to me, and they have kept thy word."

FOR JESUS CHRIST TO BE THE WORD OF GOD MEANS THAT THE REVELATION OF GOD IS SO COMPLETE THAT WE NEED NO MORE. ALL THAT IT IS POSSIBLE OR NEEDFUL FOR US TO KNOW, HAS BEEN REVEALED.

Concl: What are the practical implications of believing that Jesus Christ is Deity?

There are many, but taking John's emphasis on the fact that He was the Creator, note: 1) the wisdom, 2) the power, and 3) the perfection. Add to this the record which John has given us and we have more than enough to keep our hearts at peace through the truths about God which are evident in the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.